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DECREE FOR THE PREVENTION AND CURE
 OF HOOF-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN RUMANIA

Comment: Decree No 146, issued in Bucharest on 15 January 1953 by the Council of Ministers, gives instructions for the prevention and cure of hoof-and-mouth disease in Rumania. The unusual length of the decree appears to indicate the concern of the government over the existence of the disease in Rumania. It is interesting to note in this connection that a severe food shortage seems to have occurred in Rumania in the winter of 1953.

The following decree indicates that meat and internal organs of diseased animals are used as food.

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1. The instructions pertaining to the measures for the prevention and cure of hoof-and-mouth disease, which are incorporated into this decree, are hereby approved.
2. The State Supply Committee and the Ministry of Chemical Industry will take measures, within 7 days after the issuance of this decree, to assure a supply of disinfectants, as mentioned in the annexed list (issued by the Ministry of Agriculture).
3. All costs necessary for this undertaking will be met by the Ministry of Agriculture.
4. Measures set forth in the following instructions will be obeyed by all state farms, agricultural collectives, farms of any institution or economic organization, and all independent holdings which have animals with cloven hoofs.
 All state administrative organs are obliged to ensure strict adherence to these instructions.
5. Failure to obey any of the instructions set forth in this decree will be punished in accordance with Article 375 of the Penal Code.

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INSTRUCTIONS
FOR PREVENTING THE INTRODUCTION OF HOOF-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF THE RUMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

Article 1

All imports or transportation of animals with cloven hoofs, or of the products from diseased animals (such as milk, butter, meat, skins, horns), or of fodder from diseased areas are hereby prohibited.

To import or transport any such animals, it will be necessary for the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the Ministry of Transportation to obtain special approval, in each individual case, from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Article 2

The executive committees of all regiune, raion, and commune people's councils, the directors of all railroad stations, river ports, and seaports, and all people's organizations on the borders of the country will take all necessary measures to prevent entry into Rumania of any animals, products, or people originating from countries contaminated with this disease.

Therefore:

a. [One sentence illegible]

All animals with cloven hoofs which succeed in entering the country despite the regulations will be killed instantly and their carcasses will be destroyed by burning, in the presence of a medical examiner.

b. The local state organs will take all necessary measures for disinfecting the points where these animals entered the country, as well as the wheels of the wagons, the hoofs of healthy animals, and the shoes of any person in the immediate vicinity.

The procedure of disinfecting will be carried out under the supervision of a veterinary doctor, in the following manner:

The bodies of horses and of all other four-footed animals will be washed with a solution of 1-percent sodium hydrate. The leg joints of these same animals will be washed with a solution of 2-percent sodium hydrate.

All shoes will be washed with a solution of 2-percent sodium hydrate and with another solution of 3-percent freshly made formol.

With prior approval of the Ministry of Agriculture, other disinfectants may also be used.

The wheels of all wagons and other vehicles will be disinfecting in the same manner.

The manure and straw bedding of the infected animals will be burned on the spot.

All railroad cars or wagons used in the transportation of the infected animals will be disinfecting with a solution of 2-percent sodium hydrate, scalding hot, or with lye.

All buildings, milk containers, and other nearby objects will be disinfecting with a hot solution of 3-5-percent sodium carbonate or with a solution of 2-percent sodium hydrate. Afterward, all objects will be rinsed several times with clear water.

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All customs officials attached to railroads, airports, or ports will forbid incoming passengers to bring into the country any animal products which are in their natural state.

In the event any such products are discovered, they will be thoroughly disinfected, and if such is not possible, they will be destroyed.

c. All straw bedding which is used in the transportation of diseased animals coming into the country will be destroyed at the point of entry into the country.

Article 3

All executive committees of the people's councils in those regions bordering infected countries will start intensive education of the peasants. All farm people will be taught the characteristics of this disease and will be instructed to inspect their animals daily for any possible symptoms.

Article 4

The Ministry of Agriculture will supervise the publishing of posters and informative booklets about this disease, and the executive committees of the regions and raion people's councils will supervise the printing and distribution of this material.

Article 5

In the event that any case of hoof-and-mouth disease is discovered, the veterinary in charge will telephone or telegraph the Ministry of Agriculture, and later he will submit a written report to the executive committee of the region people's council.

At the same time, the veterinary will follow the instructions in this decree for the cure of hoof-and-mouth disease.

Article 6

To cure hoof-and-mouth disease in any particular raion, the executive committee of the people's council will appoint a special commission, composed of the president of the executive committee, the militia commandant, and the raion veterinary.

The same procedure will be followed by the region executive committee when hoof-and-mouth disease has spread over several raions.

Article 7

Being duly notified of the existence of hoof-and-mouth disease, the Ministry of Agriculture will send a special delegate to the raion or region which is contaminated. This delegate will ensure that the duties of the commission, mentioned in Article 6 above, are actually carried out, and will further ensure that any special instructions given by the Ministry of Agriculture are also followed.

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN FOR THE CURE
OF HOOF-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Article 8

Hoof-and-mouth disease is a contagious disease usually contracted by cattle, pigs, sheep, and goats. The characteristics of this disease are: the appearance of boils or erosion of the skin on the tongue, gums, mouth, joints, hoofs, or nails; fever; loss of appetite; limping; or foaming at the mouth.

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All veterinary personnel, chairmen of the agricultural sections of the people's councils, farm leaders, directors of state farms, and chairmen of collectives will instruct the working peasants on the characteristics of this disease and its cure.

Article 9

To overcome the spread of hoof-and-mouth disease and to cure it in those districts where it has started, the following instructions will be obeyed.

Quarantine

1. Directors of state farms, chairmen of agricultural collectives, and private owners of animals will contact the nearest veterinary when the slightest symptoms of this disease occur among their animals. Until the veterinary arrives they will take the following measures:

a. Animals will be kept in their stables, stalls, or wherever they are at the time. In the event that any animals suspected of this disease are in a common pasture, all animals present in that pasture will be detained there.

b. No other animals or persons will be allowed to enter the place where the animals suspected of infection are detained.

c. All milk or milk products derived from animals suspected of having this disease will be isolated and withheld from public consumption.

d. All animals suspected of having this disease will be isolated immediately from all healthy animals.

2. The veterinary will go to the farm or collective concerned the moment that he is notified of the possible existence of this disease, and will verify the symptoms and take necessary preventive or curative measures.

In the event that the veterinary confirms the presence of hoof-and-mouth disease, he will immediately separate the diseased animals from those suspected of having the disease.

All animals from a farm where even one case of hoof-and-mouth disease has been reported will be deemed to be infected.

In the event that the animals from this farm have not been kept isolated in the past 14 days, but have mingled with other animals in the vicinity, all such animals in the surrounding area will be deemed to be infected.

3. Depending on the degree to which hoof-and-mouth disease has spread in the vicinity, the stalls, the courtyards, the farm, the collective, the pastures, or the whole locality will be put under quarantine.

4. Having diagnosed the disease, the veterinary, together with the chairman of the particular farm, will inspect all possible places where the animals might have wandered. A report will be made of this fact to the raion veterinary and to the raion people's council, as well as to the veterinaries of neighboring raions.

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The raion veterinary will inform the regiune veterinary of the existence of hoof-and-mouth disease. He will also inform the veterinaries of the neighboring raions, the veterinary headquarters of the armed forces, the veterinary headquarters of the transport service, and the doctor of the raion.

The quarantine measures to be taken will be decided by the executive committee of the raion people's council and will be approved by the executive committee of the regiune people's council. The decision will be communicated to the Ministry of Agriculture.

5. All roads or routes leading to the quarantined places will bear placards and official notices warning the passers-by of the presence of hoof-and-mouth disease.

6. The following prohibitions apply to all places bearing the quarantine sign:

a. Entry or exit of any animal susceptible to hoof-and-mouth disease will not be permitted.

b. No animal products, such as skins, wool, meat, and meat products, will be collected.

c. No straw or grain which came in contact with the infected animals will be removed. Such straw or grain may be used only for animals which had previously contracted this disease or for animals which are incapable of contracting the disease. This straw or grain will not be used until 3 months after the lifting of the quarantine.

d. All fairs, expositions, or selling markets of animals will be closed.

e. The milk, sour cream, and sweet cream derived from contaminated animals may be used only by the persons domiciled within the infected collective or state farm, and then only after these products have been heated for a period of 30 minutes at a temperature of 90 degrees Centigrade or after they have been boiled for 5 minutes continuously.

7. In accordance with quarantine regulations, the following will apply:

a. Grain which was not in contact with infected animals may be removed for feeding, planting, or industrial uses.

b. Seeds or grain which were not in contact with the diseased animals may be removed only after the lifting of the quarantine.

c. In cases of diseased animals in isolated places, milk and other milk products may be removed and consumed only in accordance with the stipulations of Paragraph 6 above, and only with the approval of the veterinary and of the raion public health service.

d. All transportation from the quarantined areas will be by motor vehicles or by horses kept in a special group and completely isolated from any other animals. The wheels of the motor vehicles and of the wagons, as well as the legs of the animals used for transportation, will be disinfected with a solution of 2 percent sodium hydrate.

If possible, all horses used in the transport of produce from the quarantined areas will be sheltered in places other than the quarantined areas.

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8. The responsibility for carrying out these instructions falls on the chairman of the collective and on the persons using the domestic animals. Control will be exercised by units of the militia and by the executive committee of the respective people's council.

Cure of Hoof-and-Mouth Disease

9. In the event that any case of hoof-and-mouth disease is reported, all infected animals will be isolated.

10. During the incubation period, all animals suspected of being infected will be quarantined on the spot, and all infected animals will be isolated in a separate place, completely apart from the rest.

To care for the infected animals, a special group of persons will be assigned to the area, together with the necessary food and means of transport.

11. Persons caring for these animals will wear rubber coats and boots and will be supplied with towels, washbasins, soap, and disinfectants.

No such wearing apparel or cleaning utensils will be removed from the quarantined area.

Straw mats, previously impregnated with heavy disinfectants, will be placed at the entrance and at the exit of the quarantined area.

12. During the grazing period, the contaminated animals may be taken to an isolated portion of the pasture and kept there until the end of the quarantine period. If that is not possible, the animals will be kept in their stalls.

13. All calves of an infected herd will be kept apart from the older animals and will be fed milk or other milk products, but only if these were previously sterilized.

New calves born of infected cows will receive for the first 3 days of their lives milk from healthy cows or, if that is not available, milk from their mothers. Afterward, they will be fed with milk from healthy cows or milk from their own dams, which has been sterilized previously by heating or boiling.

14. Infected animals will be supplied with a sufficient quantity of straw bedding, clean water, and fodder. They will be subjected to symptomatic treatment.

15. All stalls, barns, or other places where the infected animals are sheltered will be cleaned periodically. They will be washed every 3 days with a solution of 2 percent sodium hydrate or hot lye; afterward they will be washed several times with clear water.

16. The manure, straw bedding, and unused fodder will all be gathered in a special place, fenced-in, so that the hoof-and-mouth virus may be destroyed by heat.

Manure will be placed in mounds 1.25 meters high and will be covered with a layer of straw 10 centimeters thick and then with a layer of earth also 10 centimeters thick. The manure will not be used within 30 days from the day it was deposited there. Fresh manure, not covered by straw or earth, will not be used until 40 days after it is deposited, and then it will be used only after a thorough spraying with a solution of 2 percent sodium hydrate.

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Frozen manure will not be used until 2 months after thawing.

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23. Scraping of the mouths of animals will be done in the following manner:

Two or three animals suffering from hoof-and-mouth disease, but free from any other contagious disease, will be used in the virus extraction procedure. The interior of their mouths will be scraped with a pair of sterilized scissors. The tissues which are obtained thereby will be washed several times with serum or with cold water which was previously boiled. The tissues then will be cut into very fine pieces and will be mixed with 300-400 cc of serum. The mixture will be filtered through sterile gauze and the resulting liquid will be the final immunization serum.

The jaws of animals which are to be immunized with the above serum will be pricked with a special needle. Then the pricked portion of the jaw will be brushed several times with a piece of cotton soaked in the immunization serum.

If the animals do not develop a small boil at the exact place where they were immunized, within a period of 2-3 days thereafter, the immunization procedure will be repeated.

All virus material which is unused will be destroyed by boiling.

Measures to Prevent the Spread of Hoof-and-Mouth Disease

24. To prevent the spread of hoof-and-mouth disease from infected districts to those free from the disease, the executive committees of the local people's councils, together with the respective veterinary staffs, will study the existing situation and will adopt the following sanitation measures:

- a. Prohibit all animals susceptible to hoof-and-mouth disease from entering the infected areas.
- b. Close all roads leading to quarantined areas.
- c. Prohibit any contact with the infected areas.
- d. Establish a strict regime of sanitation, whereby all personnel in charge of the infected animals will be prohibited from establishing contact with healthy animals or people.
- e. Spread information to the people about the detection and prevention of hoof-and-mouth disease.
- f. Set up rigid veterinary controls over the transport of any animal products from the infected areas.

25. On the basis of an order issued by the executive committee of any raion people's council, it is possible to prohibit any further collection of produce, animals, or animal products, as well as to close any fairs, markets, or exhibitions.

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26. The executive committees of all regional people's councils will set up rigorous controls over the activities of meat packing houses and any enterprises employing animals or animal products, such as leather factories, wool and textile mills, and cheese and butter manufacturing concerns.

Measures to Prevent the Spread
of Hoof-and-Mouth Disease While in Transport

27. All animals infected with hoof-and-mouth disease will be prohibited from traveling on any public road, railroad, or waterway.

28. In the event that any case of hoof-and-mouth disease is discovered in a group of animals intended for travel or public transportation, the entire group will be prohibited from traveling.

29. If any infected animal is discovered upon arrival at the meat packing plant, it will be destroyed immediately in a special sanitary room of the plant.

30. It is absolutely forbidden to remove from the premises of the meat packing plant any parts of an infected carcass, such as head, ears, tongue, or other parts.

These parts will be completely sterilized by boiling for a period of 1 hour at 100 degrees.

31. The meat of an infected carcass will not be removed from the packing plant in a raw state, but will be used in canned meat products or for boiled salami.

Bones of an infected carcass will be boiled at the packing plant for a period of 2-2½ hours, at a temperature of 100 degrees.

32. The liver, kidney, heart, and tail of an infected carcass may be used as food after a period of 24 hours of airing at a temperature of not less than 10-12 degrees.

33. No meat derived from infected carcasses will be removed from the collective where the animal contracted the disease.

34. The manure and intestines of all animals infected with hoof-and-mouth disease will be removed from the packing house only after complete disinfecting.

Other supplementary measures for the prevention of hoof-and-mouth disease in meat packing plants are set forth in special instructions issued by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Lifting of Quarantine

35. Before lifting quarantine, officials must ensure that the following measures have been taken:

a. Thorough cleaning and disinfecting of the skins and hoofs of animals.

b. Thorough cleaning and disinfecting of their place of shelter (all wooden objects of small value will be burned).

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c. Thorough and complete cleaning of all surrounding areas and of the roads leading to the quarantined areas.

d. Cleaning and disinfecting of the wearing apparel of persons caring for the sick animals.

36. Before lifting quarantine, the veterinary will inspect all other animals in the collective, as well as the collective as a whole.

37. Lifting of the quarantine from all or part of a collective may be done after 14 days from the last death, destruction, or recovery of an infected animal.

38. No animal, formerly infected, will be removed from the collective for the purposes of sale, food, or reproduction, until 3 months after the lifting of the quarantine, and then the animal to be removed will be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected.

Animals removed in the foregoing manner will be placed under another customary quarantine upon reaching their place of destination.

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